

Sponsored by: Hunt
Introduction Date: November 16, 2021
Enactment Date: November 16, 2021

CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 004-2021

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA, TEMPORARILY AUTHORIZING THE SUSPENSION AND/OR MODIFICATION OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE WHITTIER CITY CODE REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE WHITTIER COMMUNITY DURING A STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM COVID-19

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19 as a significant public risk; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Dunleavy issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 within Alaska's communities; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of global, federal, state, and local organizations and government entities are changing almost daily in response to new information regarding COVID-19, which requires the City to be able to act swiftly to comply with these recommendations in its operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect public health, welfare, and safety, the City needs flexibility in its meeting and notice protocols as well as in its procurement process for collecting and purchasing emergency supplies; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the City Manager declared a local emergency as a result of COVID-19 and acknowledged the State of Alaska's declaration of state-wide emergency issued on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 outbreak and the imminent harm it poses to the City of Whittier and all members of the Whittier community; and

WHEREAS, Council also acknowledges that the City will need aid and assistance from both the federal and state government in responding to and rebuilding after the COVID-19 emergency; and

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WHEREAS, the City Manager has authority to implement temporary rules and procedures regarding City government organization and operations during an emergency under WMC 2.64.140; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Adam Crum, pursuant to and in accordance with the authority granted by the Alaska State Legislature in House Bill 76, Chapter No. 2, SLA 2021, also declared a Public Health Emergency effective at 12:02 a.m. on May 1, 2021,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Whittier City Council hereby renews and extends the City Manager's authority to temporarily waive or modify provisions pertaining to scheduling, publication, notice, cancellation, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and other related meeting procedures for all City commission, committee, and Council meetings so long as: 1) the City Manager's actions comply with State law and the grant of authority vested in the City Manager under WMC 2.64 and 2) the City Manager posts notice of all modifications or waivers and the reasons for such modifications or waivers on the City's website no more than 10 business days after implementation. Council may repeal any modification or waiver made by the City Manager under this Ordinance by resolution.

Section 2. This ordinance is an emergency ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and shall not be codified.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect on the day it is enacted and shall expire sixty (60) days after its passage January 15, 2022, in accordance with Whittier City Code 2.08.310.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
this 16th day of November, 2021.


Dave Dickason
Mayor

AYES: Blair, Shen, Wagner, McCord, Pinqouch, Denmark, Dickason

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

(An Emergency Order requires approval of all present members or ¾ of total membership, whichever is less – WMC 2.08.310)

ATTEST:


Jackie C. Wilde
Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk